



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

September 30, 2004

Norman Y. Mineta, Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Mineta,

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

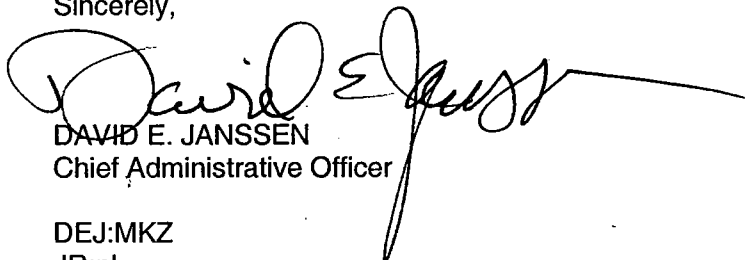
LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT- RADIO SYSTEM FAILURE

At the instruction of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, I would like to express the County's concerns regarding the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA's) radio system and back-up system failures that occurred on September 14, 2004 in the Southern California area. As a result of these system failures, countless lives were in jeopardy and at least two aircraft accidents almost occurred. It is our understanding that the FAA plans to install a new radio system for all 21 air traffic control centers around the country within a month. The County has serious concerns and questions as to whether or not a new system will be able to accommodate expansion plans currently being considered for Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) by Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA).

Currently, there are approximately 1,900 flights per day at LAX to accommodate 61 million annual passengers (MAP). With LAWA's proposed airport expansion, flights could potentially increase to 2,500 per day and conceivably accommodate up to 90 MAP even though the City has expressed an intent to limit capacity to 78 MAP. Therefore, the County of Los Angeles respectfully requests that hearings on the matter take place before a new system is installed to make sure that air traffic controllers can safely handle aircraft landing and take-offs at LAX and other regional airports at the projected rate of one plane every 30 seconds. It should be noted that LAX capacity exceeded 68 MAP before September 11, 2001 and that the airport reported 14 incursions (unsafe proximity of aircraft) during that level of operation. Passenger safety is of the utmost concern to the Board of Supervisors and proceeding with the installation of a new radio system and back-up system should not take place without appropriate public scrutiny and technical review.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this urgent request.

Sincerely,



DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

DEJ:MKZ
JR:nl

c: Each Supervisor
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Deputy County Counsel
Interim Director of Public Works
Director of Regional Planning